

ΠΕΡΙ ΟΜΗΡΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΗΣΙΟΔΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΓΕΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΓΩΝΟΣ ΑΤΤΩΝ

313¹ "Ομηρον καὶ Ἑσίοδον τοὺς θειοτάτους ποιητὰς πάντες ἄνθρωποι πολίτας ἰδίους εὖχονται γενέσθαι. ἀλλ' Ἑσίοδος μὲν τὴν ἰδίαν ὀνομάσας πατρίδα πάντας τῆς φιλονεικίας ἀπήλλαξεν εἰπὼν ὥς ὁ πατὴρ αὐτοῦ²

εἶσατο δ' ἄγχ' Ἑλικῶνος οἰζυρῇ ἐνὶ κόμῃ
"Ἀσκληρῇ, χεῖμα κακῇ, θέρει ἀργαλέῃ, οὐδέ ποτ'
ἐσθλή.

"Ομηρον δὲ πᾶσαι ὥς εἰπεῖν αἱ πόλεις καὶ οἱ ἄποικοι αὐτῶν παρ' ἑαυτοῖς γεγενῆσθαι λέγουσιν. καὶ πρῶτοί γε Σμυρναῖοι Μέλητος ὄντα τοῦ παρ' αὐτοῖς ποταμοῦ καὶ Κρηθηίδος νύμφης κεκλήσθαι φασι πρότερον Μελησιγένη, ὕστερον μέντοι τυφλωθέντα "Ομηρον μετονομασθῆναι διὰ τὴν παρ' αὐτοῖς ἐπὶ τῶν τοιούτων συνήθη προσηγορίαν. Χῖοι δὲ πάλιν τεκμήρια φέρουσιν ἴδιον εἶναι πολίτην λέγοντες καὶ περισφῆσθαι τινὰς ἐκ τοῦ γένους αὐτοῦ παρ' αὐτοῖς Ὀμηρίδας καλουμένους. Κολοφώνιοι δὲ καὶ τόπον δεικνύουσιν, ἐν ᾧ φασιν αὐτὸν γράμματα διδάσκοντα τῆς ποιήσεως ἄρξασθαι καὶ ποιῆσαι πρῶτον τὸν Μαργίτην.

Περὶ δὲ τῶν γονέων αὐτοῦ πάλιν πολλὴ διαφωνία παρὰ πᾶσιν ἐστίν. Ἑλλάνικος μὲν γὰρ

¹ Goettling's paging.

² *Works and Days*, 639 f.

OF THE ORIGIN OF HOMER AND HESIOD, AND OF THEIR CONTEST

EVERYONE boasts that the most divine of poets, Homer and Hesiod, are said to be his particular countrymen. Hesiod, indeed, has put a name to his native place and so prevented any rivalry, for he said that his father "settled near Helicon in a wretched hamlet, Ascra, which is miserable in winter sultry in summer, and good at no season." But, as for Homer, you might almost say that every city with its inhabitants claims him as her son. Foremost are the men of Smyrna who say that he was the Son of Meles, the river of their town, by a nymph Cretheïs, and that he was at first called Melesigenes. He was named Homer later, when he became blind, this being their usual epithet for such people. The Chians, on the other hand, bring forward evidence to show that he was their countrymen, saying that there actually remain some of his descendants among them who are called Homeridae. The Colophonians even show the place where they declare that he began to compose when a schoolmaster, and say that his first work was the *Margites*.

As to his parents also, there is on all hands great disagreement. Hellanicus and Cleanthes say his

314 καὶ Κλεάνθης Μαίονα λέγουσιν, Εὐγαίων δὲ Μέ-
 λητα, Καλλικλῆς δὲ Μνασαγόραν, Δημόκριτος δὲ
 ὁ Τροιζήνιος Δαήμονα ἔμπορον, ἔνιοι δὲ Θαμύραν,¹
 Αἰγύπτιοι δὲ Μενέμαχον ἱερογραμματέα, εἰσὶ δέ,
 οἱ Τηλέμαχον τὸν Ὀδυσσέως· μητέρα δὲ οἱ μὲν
 Μῆτιν, οἱ δὲ Κρηθίδα, οἱ δὲ Θεμίστην, οἱ δὲ
 Εὐγνηθώ, ἔνιοι δὲ Ἰθακησίαν τινὰ ὑπὸ Φοινίκων
 ἀπεμποληθεῖσαν, οἱ δὲ Καλλιόπην τὴν Μοῦσαν,
 τινὲς δὲ Πολυκάστην τὴν Νέστορος.

Ἐκαλεῖτο δὲ Μέλῃς, ὡς δὲ τινὲς φασι, Μελη-
 σιγένῃς, ὡς δὲ ἔνιοι, Ἀλτῃς. ὀνομασθῆναι δὲ
 αὐτὸν φασὶ τινες Ὅμηρον διὰ τὸ τὸν πατέρα
 αὐτοῦ ὅμηρον δοθῆναι ὑπὸ Κυπρίων Πέρσαις,
 οἱ δὲ διὰ τὴν πῆρῳσιν τῶν ὁμμάτων· παρὰ γὰρ
 τοῖς Αἰολεῦσιν οὕτως οἱ πηροὶ καλοῦνται. ὅπερ
 δὲ ἀκηκόαμεν ἐπὶ τοῦ θειοτάτου αὐτοκράτορος
 Ἀδριανοῦ εἰρημένον ὑπὸ τῆς Πυθίας περὶ Ὀμή-
 ρου, ἐκθῆσόμεθα. τοῦ γὰρ βασιλέως πυθομένου,
 πόθεν Ὅμηρος καὶ τίνος, ἀπεφοίβασε δι' ἑξαμέ-
 τρου τόνδε τὸν τρόπον·

Ἀγνωστόν μ' ἔρεαι γενεὴν καὶ πατρίδα γαῖαν
 ἄμβροσίῳ σειρῆνος; ἔδος δ' Ἰθακήσιός ἐστιν,
 Τηλέμαχος δὲ πατὴρ καὶ Νεστορὲς Ἐπικάστη
 μήτηρ, ἥ μιν ἔτικτε βροτῶν πολὺ πάνσοφον
 ἄνδρα.

οἷς μάλιστα δεῖ πιστεύειν διὰ τε τὸν πυθόμενον
 καὶ τὸν ἀποκρινάμενον, ἄλλως τε οὕτως τοῦ
 ποιητοῦ μεγαλοφυῶς τὸν προπάτορα διὰ τῶν
 ἐπῶν δεδοξάκοτος.

¹ Rzach : Ταμύραν, Flach.

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father was Maeon, but Eugaeon says Meles ; Callicles is for Mnesagoras, Democritus of Troezen for Daëmon, a merchant-trader. Some, again, say he was the son of Thamyras, but the Egyptians say of Menemachus, a priest-scribe, and there are even those who father him on Telemachus, the son of Odysseus. As for his mother, she is variously called Metis, Cretheïs, Themista, and Eugnetho. Others say she was an Ithacan woman sold as a slave by the Phoenicians ; others, Calliope the Muse ; others again Polycasta, the daughter of Nestor.

Homer himself was called Meles or, according to different accounts, Melesigenes or Altes. Some authorities say he was called Homer, because his father was given as a hostage to the Persians by the men of Cyprus ; others, because of his blindness ; for amongst the Aeolians the blind are so called. We will set down, however, what we have heard to have been said by the Pythia concerning Homer in the time of the most sacred Emperor Hadrian. When the monarch inquired from what city Homer came, and whose son he was, the priestess delivered a response in hexameters after this fashion :

“Do you ask me of the obscure race and country of the heavenly siren? Ithaca is his country, Telemachus his father, and Epicasta, Nestor’s daughter, the mother that bare him, a man by far the wisest of mortal kind.” This we must most implicitly believe, the inquirer and the answerer being who they are—especially since the poet has so greatly glorified his grandfather in his works.

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Ἐνιοι μὲν οὖν αὐτὸν προγενέστερον Ἡσιόδου
 φασὶν εἶναι· τινὲς δὲ νεώτερον καὶ συγγενή.
 γενεαλογοῦσι δὲ οὕτως· Ἀπόλλωνός φασι καὶ
 Αἰθούσης τῆς Ποσειδῶνος γενέσθαι Λίνον, Λίνου
 δὲ Πίερον, Πιέρου δὲ καὶ νύμφης Μεθώνης Οἶα-
 γρον, Οἰάγρου δὲ καὶ Καλλιόπης Ὀρφέα, Ὀρφέως
 δὲ Δρῆν, [τοῦ δὲ Εὐκλέα¹], τοῦ δὲ Ἰαδμονίδην,
 315 τοῦ δὲ Φιλοτέρπην, τοῦ δὲ Εὐφημον, τοῦ δὲ Ἐπι-
 φράδην, τοῦ δὲ Μελάνωπον, τούτου δὲ Δίον καὶ
 Ἀπελλῆν, Δίου δὲ καὶ Πυκιμήδης τῆς Ἀπόλ-
 λωνος θυγατρὸς Ἡσιόδου καὶ Πέρσην· Ἀπελλοῦ
 δὲ Μαίονα, Μαίονος δὲ καὶ θυγατρὸς Μέλητος
 τοῦ ποταμοῦ Ὀμηρον.

Τινὲς δὲ συνακμάσαι φασὶν αὐτοὺς ὥστε καὶ
 ἀγωνίσασθαι ὁμόσε ἐν Χαλκίδι τῆς Εὐβοίας.²
 ποιήσαντα γὰρ τὸν Μαργίτην Ὀμηρον περιέρχε-
 σθαι κατὰ πόλιν ῥαψφδοῦντα, ἐλθόντα δὲ καὶ εἰς
 Δελφοὺς περὶ τῆς πατρίδος αὐτοῦ πυνθάνεσθαι,
 τίς εἴη, τὴν δὲ Πυθίαν εἰπεῖν·

ἔστιν Ἴος νῆσος μητρὸς πατρίς, ἣ σε θανόντα
 δέξεται· ἀλλὰ νέων παίδων αἴνιγμα φύλαξαι.

τὸν δὲ ἀκούσαντα περίστασθαι μὲν τὴν εἰς Ἴον
 ἄφιξιν, διατρίβειν δὲ περὶ τὴν ἐκεῖ χώραν. κατὰ
 δὲ τὸν αὐτὸν χρόνον Γανύκτωρ ἐπιτάφιον τοῦ
 πατρὸς Ἀμφιδάμαντος, βασιλέως Εὐβοίας, ἐπι-
 τελῶν πάντας τοὺς ἐπισήμους ἄνδρας οὐ μόνον
 ῥώμῃ καὶ τάχει, ἀλλὰ καὶ σοφίᾳ ἐπὶ τὸν ἀγῶνα
 μεγάλας δωρεαῖς τιμῶν συνεκάλεσεν. καὶ οὗτοι
 οὖν ἐκ τύχης, ὥς φασι, συμβαλόντες ἀλλήλοις

¹ Goettling's supplement.

² Nietzsche: ἐν Ἀυλίδι τῆς Βοιωτίας, MSS.

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Now some say that he was earlier than Hesiod others that he was younger and akin to him. They give his descent thus : Apollo and Æthusa, daughter of Poseidon, had a son Linus, to whom was born Pierus. From Pierus and the nymph Methone sprang Oeager ; and from Oeager and Calliope Orpheus ; from Orpheus, Dres ; and from him, Eucles. The descent is continued through Iadmonides, Philoterpes, Euphemus, Epiphrades and Melanopus who had sons Dius and Apelles. Dius by Pycimede, the daughter of Apollo had two sons Hesiod and Perses ; while Apelles begot Maeon who was the father of Homer by a daughter of the River Meles.

According to one account they flourished at the same time and even had a contest of skill at Chalcis in Euboea. For, they say, after Homer had composed the *Margites*, he went about from city to city as a minstrel, and coming to Delphi, inquired who he was and of what country ? The Pythia answered :

“The Isle of Ios is your mother’s country and it shall receive you dead ; but beware of the riddle of the young children.”¹

Hearing this, it is said, he hesitated to go to Ios, and remained in the region where he was. Now about the same time Ganyctor was celebrating the funeral rites of his father Amphidamas, king of Euboea, and invited to the gathering not only all those who were famous for bodily strength and fleetness of foot, but also those who excelled in wit, promising them great rewards. And so, as the story goes, the two went to Chalcis and met by

¹ sc. the riddle of the fisher-boys which comes at the end of this work.

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ἦλθον εἰς τὴν Χαλκίδα. τοῦ δὲ ἀγώνος ἄλλοι τέτινες τῶν ἐπισήμων Χαλκιδέων ἐκαθέζοντο κριταὶ καὶ μετ' αὐτῶν Πανείδης, ἀδελφὸς ὢν τοῦ τετελευτηκότος. ἀμφοτέρων δὲ τῶν ποιητῶν θαυμαστῶς ἀγωνισαμένων νικῆσαι φασὶ τὸν Ἡσίοδον τὸν τρόπον τοῦτον· προελθόντα γὰρ εἰς τὸ μέσον πυνθάνεσθαι τοῦ Ὀμήρου καθ' ἓν ἕκαστον, τὸν δὲ Ὀμηρον ἀποκρίνασθαι. φησὶν οὖν Ἡσίοδος·

Τίε Μέλητος, Ὀμῆρε, θεῶν ἀπο μῆδεα εἰδώς,
εἴπ' ἄγε μοι πάμπρωτα, τί φέρτατόν ἐστι
βροτοῖσιν;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Ἄρχῃν μὲν μὴ φύναι ἐπιχθονίοισιν ἄριστον,
φύντα δ' ὅπως ὤκιστα πύλας Αἴδαο περῆσαι.

316 Ἡσίοδος τὸ δεύτερον·

Εἴπ' ἄγε μοι καὶ τοῦτο, θεοῖς ἐπιείκελ' Ὀμῆρε,
τί θνητοῖς κάλλιστον οἶεαι ἐν φρεσὶν εἶναι;
ὁ δέ·

Ὅππότ' ἂν εὐφροσύνη μὲν ἔχῃ κατὰ δῆμον
ἅπαντα,
δαιτυμόνες δ' ἀνὰ δώματ' ἀκουάζωνται ἀοιδοῦ
ἤμενοι ἐξείης, παρὰ δὲ πλήθωσι τράπεζαι
σίτου καὶ κρεέων, μέθυ δ' ἐκ κρητῆρος ἀφύσσων
οἶνοχόος φορέῃσι καὶ ἐγχείῃ δεπάεσσιν.
τοῦτό τί μοι κάλλιστον ἐνὶ φρεσὶν εἶδεται εἶναι.

Ῥηθέντων δὲ τούτων τῶν ἐπῶν, οὕτω σφοδρῶς
φασὶ θαυμασθῆναι ὑπὸ τῶν Ἑλλήνων τοὺς στί-
χους ὥστε χρυσοῦς αὐτοὺς προσαγορευθῆναι, καὶ
ἔτι καὶ νῦν ἐν ταῖς κοιναῖς θυσίαις πρὸ τῶν δει-
πνων καὶ σπονδῶν προκατεύχεσθαι πάντας. ὁ δὲ

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chance. The leading Chalcidians were judges together with Paneides, the brother of the dead king; and it is said that after a wonderful contest between the two poets, Hesiod won in the following manner: he came forward into the midst and put Homer one question after another, which Homer answered. Hesiod, then, began:

"Homer, son of Meles, inspired with wisdom from heaven, come, tell me first what is best for mortal man?"

HOMER

"For men on earth 'tis best never to be born at all; or being born, to pass through the gates of Hades with all speed."

Hesiod then asked again:

"Come, tell me now this also, godlike Homer: what think you in your heart is most delightsome to men?"

Homer answered:

"When mirth reigns throughout the town, and feasters about the house, sitting in order, listen to a minstrel; when the tables beside them are laden with bread and meat, and a wine-bearer draws sweet drink from the mixing-bowl and fills the cups: this I think in my heart to be most delightsome."

It is said that when Homer had recited these verses, they were so admired by the Greeks as to be called golden by them, and that even now at public sacrifices all the guests solemnly recite them before feasts and libations. Hesiod, however, was annoyed

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Ἡσίοδος ἀχθεσθεὶς ἐπὶ τῇ Ὀμήρου εὐημερίᾳ ἐπὶ
τὴν τῶν ἀπόρων ὥρμησεν ἐπερώτησιν καὶ φησι
τούσδε τοὺς στίχους·

Μοῦς' ἄγε¹ μοι τά τ' ἔοντα τά τ' ἐσόμενα πρό
τ' ἔοντα,

τῶν μὲν μηδὲν ἄειδε, σὺ δ' ἄλλης μνήσαι ἀοιδῆς.
ὁ δὲ Ὅμηρος, βουλόμενος ἀκολουθῶς τὸ ἄπορον
λῦσαι, φησὶν·

Οὐδέ ποτ' ἀμφὶ Διὸς τύμβῳ καναχήποδες ἵπποι
ἄρματα συντρίψουσιν ἐρίζοντες περὶ νίκης.

Καλῶς δὲ καὶ ἐν τούτοις ἀπαντήσαντος ἐπὶ τὰς
ἀμφιβόλους γνώμας ὥρμησεν ὁ Ἡσίοδος, καὶ
πλείονας στίχους λέγων ἡξίου καθ' ἓνα ἕκαστον
συμφώνως ἀποκρίνασθαι τὸν Ὅμηρον. ἔστιν οὖν
ὁ μὲν πρῶτος Ἡσιόδου, ὁ δὲ ἐξῆς Ὀμήρου, ἐνίστε
δὲ καὶ διὰ δύο στίχων τὴν ἐπερώτησιν ποιουμένου
τοῦ Ἡσιόδου·

ἩΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Δεῖπνον ἔπειθ' εἵλοντο βοῶν κρέα, καὶ χένας
ἵππων

ὍΜΗΡΟΣ

Ἐκλυνον ἰδρώοντας, ἐπεὶ πολέμοιο κορέσθην.

ἩΣΙΟΔΟΣ

317 Καὶ Φρύγες, οἳ πάντων ἀνδρῶν ἐπὶ νηυσὶν
ἄριστοι

ὍΜΗΡΟΣ

Ἀνδράσι ληιστῆρσιν ἐπ' ἀκτῆς δόρπον ἐλέσθαι.

ἩΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Χερσὶ βαλέων ἰοὺς² οὕλων³ κατὰ φύλα
γιγάντων

¹ MSS. : ἄ γέ μοι, Flach. ² Nietzsche : ἰοῖσιν, MS.

³ Rzach : ἄλλων, MS.

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by Homer's felicity and hurried on to pose him with hard questions. He therefore began with the following lines :

"Come, Muse ; sing not to me of things that are, or that shall be, or that were of old ; but think of another song."

Then Homer, wishing to escape from the impasse by an apt answer, replied :—

"Never shall horses with clattering hoofs break chariots, striving for victory about the tomb of Zeus."

Here again Homer had fairly met Hesiod, and so the latter turned to sentences of doubtful meaning¹ : he recited many lines and required Homer to complete the sense of each appropriately. The first of the following verses is Hesiod's and the next Homer's : but sometimes Hesiod puts his question in two lines.

HESIOD

"Then they dined on the flesh of oxen and their horses' necks—"

HOMER

"They unyoked dripping with sweat, when they had had enough of war."

HESIOD

"And the Phrygians, who of all men are handiest at ships—"

HOMER

"To filch their dinner from pirates on the beach."

HESIOD

"To shoot forth arrows against the tribes of cursed giants with his hands—"

¹ The verses of Hesiod are called doubtful in meaning because they are, if taken alone, either incomplete or absurd.

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ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Ἡρακλῆς ἀπέλυσεν ἀπ' ὤμων καμπύλα τόξα.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Οὗτος ἀνὴρ ἀνδρός τ' ἀγαθοῦ καὶ ἀνάλκιδός ἐστι

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Μητρός, ἐπεὶ πόλεμος χαλεπὸς πάσῃσι γυναιξίν.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Αὐτάρ¹ σοί γε πατὴρ ἐμίγη καὶ πότνια μήτηρ

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Σῶμα τό γε² σπείραντε διὰ χρυσέην Ἀφροδίτην.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δμήθη γάμφ' Ἀρτεμις ἰοχέαιρα

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Καλλιστὴ κατέπεφνεν ἀπ' ἀργυρέοιο βιοῖο.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Ὡς οἱ μὲν δαίνυντο πανήμεροι, οὐδὲν ἔχοντες

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

318 Οἴκοθεν· ἀλλὰ παρεῖχεν ἄναξ ἀνδρῶν Ἀγαμέμνων.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Δεῖπνον δειπνήσαντες ἐνὶ σποδῷ αἰθαλοέσση
σύλλεγον ὅστέα λευκὰ Διὸς κατατεθνηῶτος

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Παῖδός ὑπερθύμου Σαρπηδόνος ἀντιθέοιο.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Ἡμεῖς δ' ἄμ πεδίον Σιμοέντιον ἥμενοι αὐτῶς
ἴομεν ἐκ νηῶν ὁδὸν ἀμφ' ὤμοισιν ἔχοντες

¹ Ludwich : οὔτ' ἄρ, MS. ² τότε, Flach.

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HOMER

"Heracles unslung his curved bow from his shoulders."

HESIOD

"This man is the son of a brave father and a weakling—"

HOMER

"Mother; for war is too stern for any woman."

HESIOD

"But for you, your father and lady mother lay in love—"

HOMER

"When they begot you by the aid of golden Aphrodite."

HESIOD

"But when she had been made subject in love, Artemis, who delights in arrows—"

HOMER

"Slew Callisto with a shot of her silver bow."

HESIOD

"So they feasted all day long, taking nothing—"

HOMER

"From their own houses; for Agamemnon, king of men, supplied them."

HESIOD

"When they had feasted, they gathered among the glowing ashes the bones of the dead Zeus—"

HOMER

"Born Sarpedon, that bold and godlike man."

HESIOD

"Now we have lingered thus about the plain of Simoïs, forth from the ships let us go our way, upon our shoulders—"

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ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Φάσγανα κωπήεντα καὶ αἰγανέας δολιχαύλους.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Δὴ τότε ἄριστῆες κούροι χείρεσσι θαλάσσης

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Ἄσμενοι ἐσσυμένως τε ἀπείρυσαν ὠκύαλον ναῦν.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Κολχίδ' ἔπειτ' ἤγοντο καὶ Αἰήτην βασιλῆα ¹

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Φεύγον, ἐπεὶ γίγνωσκον ἀνέστιον ἢδ' ἀθέμιστον.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ σπείσαν τε καὶ ἔκπιον οἶδμα
θαλάσσης

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Ποντοπορεῖν ἤμελλον ἐυσσέλμων ἐπὶ νηῶν.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

319 Τοῖσιν δ' Ἀτρεΐδης μεγάλ' εὖχετο πᾶσιν
ὀλέσθαι ²

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Μηδέποτ' ἐν πόντῳ, καὶ φωνήσας ἔπος ἠὔδα·

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Ἐσθίετ', ὦ ξεῖνοι, καὶ πίνετε· μηδέ τις ὑμέων
οἴκαδε νοστήσειε φίλην ἐς πατρίδα γαῖαν

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Πημανθείς, ἀλλ' αὖτις ἀπήμονες οἴκαδ' ἵκοισθε.

Πρὸς πάντα δὲ τοῦ Ὀμήρου καλῶς ἀπαντήσαντος
πάλιν φησὶν ὁ Ἡσίοδος·

¹ Flach follows Nietzsche in transposing this and the following verse and in reading ἔπειθ' ἴκοντο.

² Goettling's arrangement: Flach assigns the three following verses also to Hesiod.

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HOMER

“ Having our hilted swords and long-helved spears.”

HESIOD

“ Then the young heroes with their hands from the sea—”

HOMER

“ Gladly and swiftly hauled out their fleet ship.”

HESIOD

“ Then they came to Colchis and king Æëtes—”

HOMER

“ They avoided ; for they knew he was inhospitable and lawless.”

HESIOD

“ Now when they had poured libations and deeply drunk, the surging sea—”

HOMER

“ They were minded to traverse on well-built ships.”

HESIOD

“ The Son of Atreus prayed greatly for them that they all might perish—”

HOMER

“ At no time in the sea : and he opened his mouth and said : ”

HESIOD

“ Eat, my guests, and drink, and may no one of you return home to his dear country—”

HOMER

“ Distressed ; but may you all reach home again unscathed.”

When Homer had met him fairly on every point Hesiod said :

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

Τοῦτό τι δὴ μοι μῦνον ἐειρομένῳ κατάλεξον,
 πόσσοι ἄμ' Ἀτρεΐδῃσιν ἐς Ἴλιον ἦλθον Ἀχαιοί;
 ὁ δὲ διὰ λογιστικοῦ προβλήματος ἀποκρίνεται
 οὕτως·

Πεντήκοντ' ἦσαν πυρὸς ἐσχάραι, ἐν δὲ ἐκάστη
 πεντήκοντ' ὀβελοί, περὶ δὲ κρέα πεντήκοντα·
 τρὶς δὲ τριηκόσιοι περὶ ἐν κρέας ἦσαν Ἀχαιοί.

Τοῦτο δὲ εὐρίσκεται πλήθος ἄπιστον· τῶν γὰρ
 ἐσχαρῶν οὐσῶν πεντήκοντα, ὀβελίσκοι γίνονται
 πεντακόσιοι καὶ χιλιάδες β', κρεῶν δὲ δεκαδύο
 μυριάδες

Κατὰ πάντα δὴ τοῦ Ὀμήρου ὑπερτεροῦντος
 φθονῶν ὁ Ἡσίοδος ἄρχεται πάλιν·

- 320 Τίς Μέλητος Ὀμηρ', εἴπερ τιμῶσί σε Μοῦσαι,
 ὥς λόγος, ὑψίστοιο Διὸς μέγαλοιο θύγατρες,
 λέξον μέτρον ἐναρμόζων, ὃ τι δὴ θνητοῖσι
 κάλλιστόν τε καὶ ἔχθιστον· ποθέω γὰρ ἀκοῦσαι.

ὁ δὲ φησι·

Ἡσίοδ', ἔκγονε Δίου, ἐκόντα με ταῦτα κελεύεις
 εἰπεῖν· αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ μάλα τοι πρόφρων ἀγορεύσω.
 κάλλιστον μὲν τῶν ἀγαθῶν ἔσται μέτρον εἶναι
 αὐτὸν ἑαυτῷ· τῶν δὲ κακῶν ἔχθιστον ἀπάντων.¹
 ἄλλο δὲ πᾶν, ὃ τι σφ' θυμῷ φίλον ἐστίν, ἐρώτα.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Πῶς ἂν ἄριστ' οἰκοῖντο πόλεις καὶ ἐν ἡθεσι
 ποίοις;

¹ Flach, following Nietzsche, marks a lacuna after this line.

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

"Only tell me this thing that I ask : How many Achaeans went to Ilium with the sons of Atreus ?"

Homer answered in a mathematical problem, thus :

"There were fifty hearths, and at each hearth were fifty spits, and on each spit were fifty carcasses, and there were thrice three hundred Achaeans to each joint."

. This is found to be an incredible number ; for as there were fifty hearths, the number of spits is two thousand five hundred ; and of carcasses, one hundred and twenty thousand . . .

Homer, then, having the advantage on every point, Hesiod was jealous and began again :

"Homer, son of Meles, if indeed the Muses, daughters of great Zeus the most high, honour you as it is said, tell me a standard that is both best and worst for mortal-men ; for I long to know it." Homer replied : "Hesiod, son of Dios, I am willing to tell you what you command, and very readily will I answer you. For each man to be a standard to himself is most excellent for the good, but for the bad it is the worst of all things. And now ask me whatever else your heart desires."

HESIOD

"How would men best dwell in cities, and with what observances ?"

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Εἰ μὴ κερδαίνειν ἀπὸ τῶν αἰσχυρῶν ἐθέλοιεν,
οἱ δ' ἀγαθοὶ τιμῶντο, δίκη δ' ἀδίκοισιν ἐπείη.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Εὐχέσθαι δὲ θεοῖσι τί πάντων ἐστὶν ἄμεινον;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Εὖνουν εἶναι ἑαυτῷ ἀεὶ χρόνον ἐς τὸν ἅπαντα.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Ἐν δ' ἐλαχίστῳ ἄριστον ἔχεις ὃ τι φύεται
εἰπεῖν;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Ὡς μὲν ἐμῇ γνώμῃ, φρένες ἐσθλαὶ σώμασιν
ἀνδρῶν.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Ἡ δὲ δικαιοσύνη τε καὶ ἀνδρεία δύναται τί;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Κοινὰς ὠφελίας ἰδίοις μόχθοισι πορίζειν.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Τῆς σοφίης δὲ τί τέκμαρ ἐπ' ἀνθρώποισι
πέφυκεν;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

321 Γινώσκειν τὰ παρόντ' ὀρθῶς, καιρῷ δ' ἅμ'
ἔπεσθαι.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Πιστεῦσαι δὲ βροτοῖς ποῖον χρέος ἄξιόν ἐστιν;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Οἷς αὐτὸς κίνδυνος ἐπὶ πραχθεῖσιν ἔπηται.

ΗΣΙΟΔΟΣ

Ἡ δ' εὐδαιμονία τί ποτ' ἀνθρώποισι καλεῖται;

ΟΜΗΡΟΣ

Λυπηθέντ' ἐλάχιστα θανεῖν ἡσθέντα τε πλείστα.

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

HOMER

"By scorning to get unclean gain and if the good were honoured, but justice fell upon the unjust."

HESIOD

"What is the best thing of all for a man to ask of the gods in prayer?"

HOMER

"That he may be always at peace with himself continually."

HESIOD

"Can you tell me in briefest space what is best of all?"

HOMER

"A sound mind in a manly body, as I believe."

HESIOD

"Of what effect are righteousness and courage?"

HOMER

"To advance the common good by private pains."

HESIOD

"What is the mark of wisdom among men?"

HOMER

"To read aright the present, and to march with the occasion."

HESIOD

"In what kind of matter is it right to trust in men?"

HOMER

"Where danger itself follows the action close."

HESIOD

"What do men mean by happiness?"

HOMER

"Death after a life of least pain and greatest pleasure."

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

Ῥηθέντων δὲ καὶ τούτων, οἱ μὲν Ἕλληνες πάντες
τὸν Ὅμηρον ἐκέλευον στεφανοῦν, ὁ δὲ βασιλεὺς
Πανεΐδης ἐκέλευσεν ἕκαστον τὸ κάλλιστον ἐκ τῶν
ιδίῳ ποιημάτων εἰπεῖν. Ἡσίοδος οὖν ἔφη πρῶ-
τος·

Πληιάδων Ἀτλαγενέων ἐπιτελλομενάων
ἄρχεσθ' ἀμήτου, ἀρότιό τε δυσομενάων·
αἱ δὴ τοι νύκτας τε καὶ ἡμέματα τεσσαράκοντα
κεκρύφεται, αὐτὶς δὲ περιπλομένου ἐνιαυτοῦ
φαίνονται, τὰ πρῶτα χαρασσομένοιο σιδήρου.
οὗτός τοι πεδίῳ πέλεται νόμος, οἷ τε θαλάσσης
ἐγγύθι ναιετάουσ', οἷ τ' ἄγχεα βησσήεντα
πόντου κυμαίνοντος ἀπόπροθι, πῖονα χῶρον
ναίουσιν· γυμνὸν σπείρειν, γυμνὸν δὲ βρωτεῖν
γυμνόν τ' ἀμάειν, ὅταν ὥρια πάντα πέλονται.

Μεθ' οὖν Ὅμηρος·

Ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' Αἴαντας δοιοὺς ἴσταντο φάλαγγες
καρτεραί, ἃς οὐτ' ἄν κεν Ἄρης ὀνόσαιτο μετελθὼν
οὔτε κ' Ἀθηναίη λαοσσόος. οἱ γὰρ ἄριστοι
κρινθέντες Τρῳάς τε καὶ Ἑκτορα δῖον ἔμιμνον
φράξαντες δόρυ δουρί, σάκος σάκεϊ προθελύμνω·
322 ἀσπίς ἄρ' ἀσπὶδ' ἔρειδε, κόρυς κόρυν, ἀνέρα δ'
ἀνὴρ,
ψαῦον δ' ἵππόκομοι κόρυθες λαμπροῖσι φάλιοις
νεύοντων· ὥς πυκνοὶ ἐφέστασαν ἀλλήλοισιν.
ἔφριξεν δὲ μάχη φθισίμβροτος ἐγχείρῃσι
μακραίς, ἃς εἶχον ταμεσίχροας. ὅσσε δ' ἄμερδεν
αὐγὴ χαλκείη κορύθων ἀπο λαμπομενάων
θωρήκων τε νεοσμήκτων σακέων τε φαεινῶν
ἐρχομένων ἄμυδις. μάλα κεν θρασυκάρδιος εἶη,
ὃς τότε γηθήσειεν ἰδὼν πόνον οὐδ' ἀκάχοιτο.

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

After these verses had been spoken, all the Hellenes called for Homer to be crowned. But King Paneides bade each of them recite the finest passage from his own poems. Hesiod, therefore, began¹ as follows :

“When the Pleiads, the daughters of Atlas, begin to rise begin the harvest, and begin ploughing ere they set. For forty nights and days they are hidden, but appear again as the year wears round, when first the sickle is sharpened. This is the law of the plains and for those who dwell near the sea or live in the rich-soiled valleys, far from the wave-tossed deep : strip to sow, and strip to plough, and strip to reap when all things are in season.”

Then Homer² :

“The ranks stood firm about the two Aiantes, such that not even Ares would have scorned them had he met them, nor yet Athena who saves armies. For there the chosen best awaited the charge of the Trojans and noble Hector, making a fence of spears and serried shields. Shield closed with shield, and helm with helm, and each man with his fellow, and the peaks of their head-pieces with crests of horse-hair touched as they bent their heads : so close they stood together. The murderous battle bristled with the long, flesh-rending spears they held, and the flash of bronze from polished helms and new-burnished breast-plates and gleaming shields blinded the eyes. Very hard of heart would he have been, who could then have seen that strife with joy and felt no pang.”

¹ *Works and Days*, 383-392.

² *Iliad* xiii. 126-133, 339-344.

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

Θαυμάσαντες δὲ καὶ ἐν τούτῳ τὸν Ὅμηρον οἱ Ἕλληνες ἐπήνουν, ὥς παρὰ τὸ προσῆκον γεγονότων τῶν ἐπῶν, καὶ ἐκέλευον διδόναι τὴν νίκην. ὁ δὲ βασιλεὺς τὸν Ἡσίοδον ἐστεφάνωσεν εἰπὼν δίκαιον εἶναι τὸν ἐπὶ γεωργίαν καὶ εἰρήνην προκαλούμενον νικᾶν, οὐ τὸν πολέμους καὶ σφαγὰς διεξιόντα. τῆς μὲν οὖν νίκης οὕτω φασὶ τυχεῖν τὸν Ἡσίοδον καὶ λαβόντα τρίποδα χαλκοῦν ἀναθεῖναι ταῖς Μούσαις ἐπιγράψαντα.

Ἡσίοδος Μούσαις Ἑλικωνίσι τόνδ' ἀνέθηκεν ὕμνῳ νικήσας ἐν Χαλκίδι θεῖον Ὅμηρον.

Τοῦ δὲ ἀγῶνος διαλυθέντος διέπλευσεν ὁ Ἡσίοδος εἰς Δελφοὺς χρησόμενος καὶ τῆς νίκης ἀπαρχὰς τῷ θεῷ ἀναθήσων. προσερχομένου δὲ αὐτοῦ τῷ ναῷ ἔνθεον γενομένην τὴν προφήτιν φασιν εἰπεῖν·

Ὀλβιος οὗτος ἀνὴρ, ὃς ἐμὸν δόμον ἀμφιπολεῦει,
Ἡσίοδος Μούσῃσι τετιμένος ἀθανάτησιν·
τοῦ δ' ἦτοι κλέος ἔσται, ὅσον τ' ἐπικίδναται ἡώς.
ἀλλὰ Διὸς πεφύλαξο Νεμείου κάλλιμον ἄλσος·
κεῖθι δέ τοι θανάτοιο τέλος πεπρωμένον ἔστίν.

Ὁ δὲ Ἡσίοδος ἀκούσας τοῦ χρησμοῦ, τῆς Πελοποννήσου μὲν ἀνεχώρει νομίσας τὴν ἐκεῖ Νεμέαν τὸν θεὸν λέγειν, εἰς δὲ Οἰνόνην τῆς Λοκρίδος ἔλθων καταλύει παρ' Ἀμφιφάνει καὶ Γανύκτορι, τοῖς Φηγέως παισίν, ἀγνοήσας τὸ μαντεῖον. ὁ γὰρ τόπος οὗτος ἅπας ἐκαλεῖτο Διὸς Νεμείου
323 ἱερόν. διατριβῆς δὲ αὐτῷ πλείονος γενομένης ἐν τοῖς Οἰνοεῦσιν, ὑπονοήσαντες οἱ νεανίσκοι τὴν ἀδελφὴν αὐτῶν μοιχεύειν τὸν Ἡσίοδον, ἀποκτείν-
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CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

Here, again, the Hellenes applauded Homer admiringly, so far did the verses exceed the ordinary level; and demanded that he should be adjudged the winner. But the king gave the crown to Hesiod, declaring that it was right that he who called upon men to follow peace and husbandry should have the prize rather than one who dwelt on war and slaughter. In this way, then, we are told, Hesiod gained the victory and received a brazen tripod which he dedicated to the Muses with this inscription :

“Hesiod dedicated this tripod to the Muses of Helicon after he had conquered divine Homer at Chalcis in a contest of song.”

After the gathering was dispersed, Hesiod crossed to the mainland and went to Delphi to consult the oracle and to dedicate the first fruits of his victory to the god. They say that as he was approaching the temple, the prophetess became inspired and said :

“Blessed is this man who serves my house,—Hesiod, who is honoured by the deathless Muses : surely his renown shall be as wide as the light of dawn is spread. But beware of the pleasant grove of Nemean Zeus ; for there death’s end is destined to befall you.”

When Hesiod heard this oracle, he kept away from the Peloponnesus, supposing that the god meant the Nemea there ; and coming to Oenoë in Locris, he stayed with Amphiphanes and Ganyctor the sons of Phegeus, thus unconsciously fulfilling the oracle ; for all that region was called the sacred place of Nemean Zeus. He continued to stay a somewhat long time at Oenoë, until the young men, suspecting Hesiod of seducing their sister, killed

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

ναυτες εἰς τὸ μεταξὺ τῆς Ἀχαιᾶς¹ καὶ τῆς Λοκρίδος πέλαγος κατεπόντισαν. τοῦ δὲ νεκροῦ τριταίου πρὸς τὴν γῆν ὑπὸ δελφίνων προσενεχθέντος, ἑορτῆς τινος ἐπιχωρίου παρ' αὐτοῖς οὔσης Ἀριαδνεΐας,² πάντες ἐπὶ τὸν αἰγιαλὸν ἔδραμον καὶ τὸ σῶμα γνωρίσαντες, ἐκεῖνο μὲν πενθήσαντες ἔθαψαν, τοὺς δὲ φονεῖς ἀνεζήτουν. οἱ δὲ φοβηθέντες τὴν τῶν πολιτῶν ὀργὴν κατασπάσαντες ἀλιευτικὸν σκάφος διέπλευσαν εἰς Κρήτην· οὓς κατὰ μέσον τὸν πλοῦν ὁ Ζεὺς κεραυνώσας κατεπόντωσεν, ὥς φησιν Ἀλκιδάμας ἐν Μουσεΐῳ. Ἐρατοσθένης δὲ φησιν ἐν Ἑσιόδῳ³ Κτίμενον καὶ Ἀντιφον τοὺς Γανύκτορος ἐπὶ τῇ προειρημένῃ αἰτία ἐναλόντας⁴ σφαγιασθῆναι θεοῖς τοῖς ξενίοις ὑπ' Εὐρυκλέους τοῦ μάντεως. τὴν μέντοι παρθένον, τὴν ἀδελφὴν τῶν προειρημένων, μετὰ τὴν φθορὰν ἑαυτὴν ἀναρτῆσαι· φθαρῆναι δὲ ὑπὸ τινος ξένου συνόδου τοῦ Ἑσιόδου Δημῳδους ὄνομα· ὃν καὶ αὐτὸν ἀναιρεθῆναι ὑπὸ τῶν αὐτῶν φησιν. ὕστερον δὲ Ὀρχομένιοι κατὰ χρῆσμον μετενέγκαντες αὐτὸν παρ' αὐτοῖς ἔθαψαν καὶ ἐπέγραψαν ἐπὶ τῷ τάφῳ·

Ἄσκη μὲν πατρίς πολυλήϊος, ἀλλὰ θανόντος
ὀστέα πλήξιππος γῇ Μιννὰς κατέχει

Ἑσιόδου, τοῦ πλεῖστον ἐν ἀνθρώποις κλέος ἐστὶν
ἀνδρῶν κρινομένων ἐν βασάνῳ σοφίης.

Καὶ περὶ μὲν Ἑσιόδου τοσαῦτα· ὁ δὲ Ὀμηρος

¹ Westermann: Εὐβόλας, MS.

² So MS.: Πίου ἀγνεΐας, Flach (after Nietzsche).

³ Goettling: ἐνηπόδω, MS.

⁴ Friedel: ἀνελόντας, MS.; ἀνελθόντας, Flach (after Stephanus).

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

him and cast his body into the sea which separates Achaea and Locris. On the third day, however, his body was brought to land by dolphins while some local feast of Ariadne was being held. Thereupon, all the people hurried to the shore, and recognizing the body, lamented over it and buried it, and then began to look for the assassins. But these, fearing the anger of their countrymen, launched a fishing boat, and put out to sea for Crete: they had finished half their voyage when Zeus sank them with a thunderbolt, as Alcidamas states in his *Museum*. Eratosthenes, however, says in his *Hesiod* that Ctimenus and Antiphus, sons of Ganymetor, killed him for the reason already stated, and were sacrificed by Eurycles the seer to the gods of hospitality. He adds that the girl, sister of the above-named, hanged herself after she had been seduced, and that she was seduced by some stranger, Demodes by name, who was travelling with Hesiod, and who was also killed by the brothers. At a later time the men of Orchomenus removed his body as they were directed by an oracle, and buried him in their own country where they placed this inscription on his tomb:

“Ascra with its many cornfields was his native land; but in death the land of the horse-driving Minyans holds the bones of Hesiod, whose renown is greatest among men of all who are judged by the test of wit.”

So much for Hesiod. But Homer, after losing the

ἀποτυχὼν τῆς νίκης περιερχόμενος ἔλεγε τὰ ποιήματα, πρῶτον μὲν τὴν Θηβαΐδα, ἔπη ζ, ἣς ἡ ἀρχή·

324 Ἄργος ἄειδε, θεά, πολυδίψιον, ἔνθεν ἄνακτες·
εἶτα Ἐπιγόνους, ἔπη ζ, ὧν ἡ ἀρχή·

νῦν αὖθ' ὀπλοτέρων ἀνδρῶν ἀρχόμεθα, Μοῦσαι.
φασὶ γάρ τινες καὶ ταῦτα Ὅμηρου εἶναι. ἀκούσαντες δὲ τῶν ἐπῶν οἱ Μίδου τοῦ βασιλέως παῖδες, Ξάνθος καὶ Γόργος, παρακαλοῦσιν αὐτὸν ἐπίγραμμα ποιῆσαι ἐπὶ τοῦ τάφου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῶν, ἐφ' οὗ ἦν παρθένος χαλκῇ τὸν Μίδου θάνατον οἰκτιζομένη. καὶ ποιεῖ οὕτως·

Χαλκῆ παρθένος εἰμί, Μίδεω δ' ἐπὶ σήματος ἦμαι.

ἔστ' ἂν ὕδωρ τε νάη καὶ δένδρεα μακρὰ τεθήλη
καὶ ποταμοὶ πλήθωσι, περικλύξῃ δὲ θάλασσα,
ἥελιος δ' ἀνιὼν φαίνη λαμπρά τε σελήνη,
αὐτοῦ τῇδε μένουσα πολυκλαύτῳ ἐπὶ τύμβῳ
σημανέω παριούσι, Μίδης ὅτι τῇδε τέθαιπται.

Λαβὼν δὲ παρ' αὐτῶν φιάλην ἀργυρᾶν ἀνατίθηναι ἐν Δελφοῖς τῷ Ἀπόλλωνι, ἐπιγράψας·

Φοῖβε ἄναξ, δῶρόν τοι Ὀμηρος καλὸν ἔδωκα
σῇσιν ἐπιφροσύναις· σὺ δέ μοι κλέος αἰὲν ὀπάζεις.

Μετὰ δὲ ταῦτα ποιεῖ τὴν Ὀδύσσειαν, ἔπη Μ, β', πεποιηκὼς ἤδη τὴν Ἰλιάδα ἐπῶν Μ, εφ'. παραγενόμενον δὲ ἐκείθεν εἰς Ἀθήνας αὐτὸν ξενισθῆναί φασι παρὰ Μέδοντι τῷ βασιλεῖ τῶν Ἀθηναίων. ἐν δὲ τῷ βουλευτηρίῳ ψύχους ὄντος καὶ πυρὸς

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

victory, went from place to place reciting his poems ; and first of all the *Thebais* in seven thousand verses which begins : “ Goddess, sing of parched Argos whence kings . . . ,” and then the *Epigoni* in seven thousand verses beginning : “ And now, Muses, let us begin to sing of men of later days ” ; for some say that these poems also are by Homer. Now Xanthus and Gorgus, son of Midas the king, heard his epics and invited him to compose a epitaph for the tomb of their father on which was a bronze figure of a maiden bewailing the death of Midas. He wrote the following lines :—

“ I am a maiden of bronze and sit upon the tomb of Midas. While water flows, and tall trees put forth leaves, and rivers swell, and the sea breaks on the shore ; while the sun rises and shines and the bright moon also, ever remaining on this mournful tomb I tell the passer-by that Midas here lies buried.”

For these verses they gave him a silver bowl which he dedicated to Apollo at Delphi with this inscription : “ Lord Phoebus, I, Homer, have given you a noble gift for the wisdom I have of you : do you ever grant me renown.”

After this he composed the *Odyssey* in twelve thousand verses, having previously written the *Iliad* in fifteen thousand five hundred verses.¹ From Delphi, as we are told, he went to Athens and was entertained by Medon, king of the Athenians. And being one day in the council hall when it was cold

¹ The accepted text of the *Iliad* contains 15,693 verses ; that of the *Odyssey*, 12,110.

CONTEST OF HOMER AND HESIOD

καιομένου σχεδιάσαι λέγεται τούσδε τούς στίχους·

Ἄνδρὸς μὲν στέφανοι παῖδες, πύργοι δὲ πόλῃος,
ἵπποι δ' αὖ πεδίου κόσμος, νῆες δὲ θαλάσσης,
λαὸς δ' εἰν ἀγορῇσι καθήμενος εἰσοράασθαι.
αἰθομένου δὲ πυρὸς γεραρώτερος οἶκος ιδέσθαι
ἥματι χειμερίῳ, ὅπότε ἂν νείφῃσι Κρονίων.

325 Ἐκεῖθεν δὲ παραγενόμενος εἰς Κόρινθον, ἔρρα-
ψώδει τὰ ποιήματα. τιμηθεὶς δὲ μεγάλως παρα-
γίνεται εἰς Ἄργος καὶ λέγει ἐκ τῆς Ἰλιάδος τὰ
ἔπη τάδε·

Οἱ δ' Ἄργος τ' εἶχον Τίρυνθά τε τειχιόεσσαν
Ἑρμιόνην τ' Ἀσίνην τε, βαθὺν κατὰ κόλπον
ἐχούσας,
Τροιζῆν' Ἡίονας τε καὶ ἀμπελόεντ' Ἐπίδauρον
νῆσόν τ' Αἰγιναν Μάσητά τε κούροι Ἀχαιῶν,
τῶν αὖθ' ἡγεμόνευε βοὴν ἀγαθὸς Διομήδης
Τυδεΐδης, οὗ πατὴρ ἔχων μένος Οἰνείδαο,
καὶ Σθένελος, Καπανῆος ἀγακλειτοῦ φίλος υἱός·
τοῖσι δ' ἄμ' Εὐρύπυλος τρίτατος κίεν, ἰσόθεος
φώς,

Μηκιστέως υἱὸς Ταλαϊονίδαο ἄνακτος.
ἐκ πάντων δ' ἡγείτο βοὴν ἀγαθὸς Διομήδης.
τοῖσι δ' ἄμ' ὀγδῶκοντα μέλαινα νῆες ἔποντο·
ἐν δ' ἄνδρες πολέμοιο δαήμονες ἐστιχόωντο
Ἀργεῖοι λινοθώρηκες, κέντρα πτολέμοιο.¹

Τῶν δὲ Ἀργείων οἱ προεστηκότες, ὑπερβολῇ
χαρέντες ἐπὶ τῷ ἐγκωμιάζεσθαι τὸ γένος αὐτῶν
ὑπὸ τοῦ ἐνδοξοτάτου τῶν ποιητῶν, αὐτὸν μὲν

¹ This and the preceding line are not found in the received text.

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and a fire was burning there, he threw off the following lines :

“Children are a man’s crown, and towers of a city, horses are the ornament of a plain, and ships of the sea ; and good it is to see a people seated in assembly. But with a blazing fire a house looks worthier upon a wintry day when the Son of Cronos sends down snow.”

From Athens he went on to Corinth, where he sang snatches of his poems and was received with distinction. Next he went to Argos and there recited these verses from the *Iliad* ¹ :

“The sons of the Achaeans who held Argos and walled Tiryns, and Hermione and Asine which lie along a deep bay, and Troezen, and Eïones, and vine-clad Epidaurus, and the island of Aegina, and Mases, —these followed strong-voiced Diomedes, son of Tydeus, who had the spirit of his father the son of Oeneus, and Sthenelus, dear son of famous Capaneus. And with these two there went a third leader, Eurypylus, a godlike man, son of the lord Mecisteus, sprung of Talaüs ; but strong-voiced Diomedes was their chief leader. These men had eighty dark ships wherein were ranged men skilled in war, Argives with linen jerkins, very goads of war.”

This praise of their race by the most famous of all poets so exceedingly delighted the leading Argives, that they rewarded him with costly gifts and

¹ ii. 559-568 (with two additional verses).

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πολυτελέσι δωρεαῖς ἐτίμησαν, εἰκόνα δὲ χαλ-
κὴν ἀναστήσαντες ἐψηφίσαντο θυσίαν ἐπιτελεῖν
᾿Ομήρῳ καθ' ἡμέραν καὶ κατὰ μῆνα καὶ κατ'
ἐνιαυτόν, καὶ ἄλλην θυσίαν πενταετηρίδα εἰς
Χίον ἀποστέλλειν. ἐπιγράφουσι δὲ ἐπὶ τῆς
εἰκόνης αὐτοῦ·

Θεῖος ᾿Ομηρος ὃδ' ἐστίν, ὃς ᾿Ελλάδα τὴν
μεγάλανχον
παᾶσαν ἐκόσμησεν καλλιπεεῖ σοφίῃ,
ἔξοχα δ' ᾿Αργεῖτους, οἳ τὴν θεοτειχέα Τροίην
ἤρειψαν, ποινὴν ἠυκόμου ᾿Ελένης.
οὐ χάριν ἔστησεν δῆμος μεγαλόπολις αὐτόν
ἐνθάδε καὶ τιμαῖς ἀμφέπει ἀθανάτων.

Ἐνδιατρίψας δὲ τῇ πόλει χρόνον τινὰ διέπλευ-
σεν εἰς Δῆλον εἰς τὴν πανηγυριν. καὶ σταθεὶς
ἐπὶ τὸν κεράτινον βωμόν λέγει ὕμνον εἰς ᾿Απόλ-
λωνα, οὗ ἡ ἀρχή·

Μνήσομαι οὐδὲ λάθωμαι ᾿Απόλλωνος ἐκάτοιο.

ῥηθέντος δὲ τοῦ ὕμνου οἱ μὲν Ἴωνες πολίτην
αὐτόν κοινὸν ἐποιήσαντο, Δήλιοι δὲ γράψαντες
326 τὰ ἔπη εἰς λεύκωμα ἀνέθηκαν ἐν τῷ τῆς Ἀρτέ-
μιδος ἱερῷ. τῆς δὲ πανηγύρεως λυθείσης ὁ
ποιητὴς εἰς Ἴον ἔπλευσε πρὸς Κρεώφυλον κακεῖ
χρόνον διέτριβε πρεσβύτης ὢν ἤδη. ἐπὶ δὲ τῆς
θαλάσσης καθήμενος παίδων τινῶν ἀφ' ἀλείας
ἐρχομένων, ὥς φασι, πυθόμενος

Ἄνδρες ἄγρης ἀλίας¹ θηρήτορες, ἡ ῥ' ἔχομέν τι;

¹ Koechly : ἀπ' ᾿Αρκαδίας, MS. (so Flach).

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set up a brazen statue to him, decreeing that sacrifice should be offered to Homer daily, monthly, and yearly; and that another sacrifice should be sent to Chios every five years. This is the inscription they cut upon his statue:

“This is divine Homer who by his sweet-voiced art honoured all proud Hellas, but especially the Argives who threw down the god-built walls of Troy to avenge rich-haired Helen. For this cause the people of a great city set his statue here and serve him with the honours of the deathless gods.”

After he had stayed for some time in Argos, he crossed over to Delos, to the great assembly, and there, standing on the altar of horns, he recited the *Hymn to Apollo*¹ which begins: “I will remember and not forget Apollo the far-shooter.” When the hymn was ended, the Ionians made him a citizen of each one of their states, and the Delians wrote the poem on a whitened tablet and dedicated it in the temple of Artemis. The poet sailed to Ios, after the assembly was broken up, to join Creophylus, and stayed there some time, being now an old man. And, it is said, as he was sitting by the sea he asked some boys who were returning from fishing:

“Sirs, hunters of deep-sea prey, have we caught anything?”

¹ *Homeric Hymns*, iii.

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εἰπόντων δὲ ἐκείνων·

“Ὅσσ’ ἔλομεν λιπόμεσθ’, ὅσα δ’ οὐχ ἔλομεν
φερόμεσθα,

οὐ νοήσας τὸ λεχθέν, ἤρετο αὐτοὺς ὃ τι λέγοιεν.
οἱ δὲ φασιν ἐν ἀλείᾳ μὲν ἀγρεύσαι μηδέν, ἐφθει-
ρίσθαι δέ, καὶ τῶν φθειρῶν οὓς ἔλαβον καταλι-
πεῖν, οὓς δὲ οὐκ ἔλαβον ἐν τοῖς ἱματίοις φέρειν.
ἀναμνησθεῖς δὲ τοῦ μαντείου, ὅτι τὸ τέλος αὐτοῦ
ἦκοι τοῦ βίου, ποιεῖ τὸ τοῦ τάφου αὐτοῦ ἐπί-
γραμμα. ἀναχωρῶν δὲ ἐκεῖθεν, ὄντος πηλοῦ,
ὀλισθὼν καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τὴν πλευράν, τριταῖος,
ὥς φασι, τελευτᾷ. καὶ ἐτάφη ἐν Ἴῳ. ἔστι δὲ τὸ
ἐπίγραμμα τόδε·

Ἐνθάδε τὴν ἱερὴν κεφαλὴν κατὰ γαῖα καλύπτει,
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων κοσμήτορα, θεῖον Ὀμηρον.

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To this they replied :

“All that we caught, we left behind, and carry away all that we did not catch.”

Homer did not understand this reply and asked what they meant. They then explained that they had caught nothing in fishing, but had been catching their lice, and those of the lice which they caught, they left behind ; but carried away in their clothes those which they did not catch. Hereupon Homer remembered the oracle and, perceiving that the end of his life had come composed his own epitaph. And while he was retiring from that place, he slipped in a clayey place and fell upon his side, and died, it is said, the third day after. He was buried in Ios, and this is his epitaph :

“Here the earth covers the sacred head of divine Homer, the glorifier of hero-men.”